

REMARKS

This paper is responsive to the final Office action dated March 7, 2006. Claims 1-4, 6-8, 21-24, 26, 28, 30 and 32-36 were examined.

In the present Office Action: claims 1 and 21 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §101 for allegedly being directed to non-statutory subject matter; claims 1, 2, 3, 8, 21, 23, 24, 28, 30 and 32-36 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 5,881,264 (hereinafter "Kurosawa") in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,357,016 (hereinafter "Rodgers"); claims 6, 7, 22 and 26 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Kurosawa in view of Rodgers, and in further view of U.S. Patent No. 6,473,832 (hereinafter "Ramagopal"); and claim 4 was objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but was indicated to be allowable if rewritten in independent form to include all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

While Applicant does not necessarily agree with the rejection of independent claims 1 and 21, under 35 U.S.C. §101, Applicant has amended independent claims 1 and 21 to address the rejection. Similarly, while Applicant does not agree with the rejection of claims 1, 21 and 28, under 35 U.S.C. §103(a), Applicant has amended independent claims 1, 21 and 28 in a manner which Applicant believes complies with the scope of coverage indicated by the Examiner to be allowable over the applied prior art of record. Applicant has also amended claims 22 and 23 and canceled claims 2-4 and 24.

In summary, claims 1, 6-8, 21-23, 26, 28, 30 and 32-36 are in the case. All claims are believed to be allowable over the applied art of record, and a Notice of Allowance to that effect is respectfully solicited. Nonetheless, if any issues remain that could be more efficiently handled by telephone, the Examiner is requested to call the undersigned at the number listed below.

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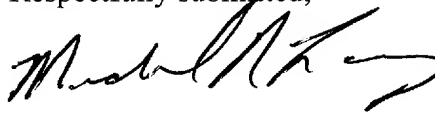
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Michael R. Long

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Respectfully submitted,



Michael R. Long, Reg. No. 42,808
Attorney for Applicant(s)
(512) 338-6324 (direct)
(512) 338-6300 (main)
(512) 338-6301 (fax)